

Message Text

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14

ACTION NRC-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 OES-06 DODE-00 /069 W
----- 038461

R 080628Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4050
USERDA WASHDC
INFO USERDA GERMANTOWN

UNCLAS TOKYO 18028

DEPT PLS PASS NRC FOR LAFLEUR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, JA

SUBJECT: MIHAMA-1 FUEL ROD BREAKDOWN

1. HIROYOSHI KURIHARA, HEAD, SAFEGUARDS OFFICE, NUCLEAR SAFETY BUREAU, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AGENCY, INFORMED ERDA REP AT SOCIAL EVENT OF EVENING DECEMBER 7 OF MIHAMA-1 INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED IN 1973 AND WAS UNREPORTED BY KANSAI. ACCORDING TO KURIHARA, UPON REMOVAL OF A FUEL BUNDLE FROM THE CORE DURING ROUTINE MAINTENANCE, TWO FUEL TUBES BROKE AND A NUMBER OF UO2 PELLETS SPILLED INTO THE CORE.

2. SEVERAL JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS ON DEC. 8 PLUS FRONT PAGE ARTICLE JAPAN TIMES REPORTED THAT MITI FIELD INSPECTION DEC. 3 REVEALED MIHAMA-1 FUEL TUBE BREAKAGE WHICH OCCURRED APRIL 1973 AND WAS NOT REPORTED BY KANSAI TO GOJ:

1. UPPER 70-CENTIMETER PORTIONS OF TWO FUEL TUBES WERE BROKEN INTO 7 PIECES WHILE BEING REMOVED FOR PERIODIC MAINTENANCE. UO2 FUEL PELLETS DROPPED TO BOTTOM OF CORE.

2. WORKERS AT THAT TIME FELT FUEL ELEMENTS HUNG UP ON SOMETHING TEMPORARILY BUT WENT AHEAD. THEN THEY NOTICED UO2 PELLETS AND ROD PIECES DROPPED INTO CORE.

3. KEPCO SAYS THEY IMMEDIATELY RECOVERED ROD PIECES
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AND STORED IN POOL. MITI INSPECTOR COULD NOT CONFIRM

WHETHER ROD PIECES WERE RECOVERED COMPLETELY.

4. NO ENVIRONMENT IMPACT OCCURRED.

5. KEPCO DID NOT REPORT INCIDENT TO GOVERNMENT, PARTLY
BECAUSE INCIDENT OCCURRED WHEN PLANT WAS NOT IN OPERATION.
THEY NOW ADMIT REPORT SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE.

6. CAUSE OF FUEL TUBE BREAKAGE TO BE INVESTIGATED.

7. MITI AND JAEC TAKE SERIOUS VIEW OF KANSAI'S FAILURE
TO REPORT INCIDENT.

8. SOCIALIST PARTY REPRESENTATIVE BROUGHT UP RUMORED FUEL
TUBE BREAKAGE AT DIET LAST AUG. ON BASIS OF UNCONFIRMED
INFORMATION. MITI PROMISED INVESTIGATION AND SENT
INSPECTION TEAM.

3. REPORTING AND TRANSLATIONS MAKE UNDERSTANDING OF EXACT NATURE
AND SEQUENCE OF EVENTS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND. WILL REPORT
FURTHER
AS MORE DETAILS SURFACE.
HODGSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS, INSPECTIONS, FISSIONABLE MATERIALS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO18028
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760453-0235
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
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Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <06 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIHAMA-1 FUEL ROD BREAKDOWN
TAGS: TECH, JA
To: STATE ERDA
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